



Armley Park Primary School

Learning at Home - Frequently Asked Questions for Parents

After three weeks of having the majority of our children learning at home, we have put together a Frequently Asked Questions document which we hope will support parents whilst their children are learning at home. **Please remember that we are here to offer help and support** to our children and families while they are learning at home and so if you have any specific questions that have not been answered in this document, please use the year group email address for your child and a member of staff will be in touch with you.

As a staff we would like to offer our thanks and appreciation to everyone who, we know, is doing their best while learning at home. As we have made clear in all the correspondence from school to home, we understand that our children and families have very different circumstances at home, and this means that the learning at home that children do will differ greatly between families. We hope that this document, along with the previous communication with parents, provides some reassurance to you that we acknowledge and understand the difficulties and challenges that our families are facing.

1. Does my child have to complete every learning task everyday?

No. Teachers have set the learning tasks for their class for each day which offer a broad range of subjects and topics from the curriculum. As a guide, we would advise parents to encourage their child to complete the maths, reading and writing tasks as a priority. Children can then look at the other topics in their classroom for that day.

Teachers have also set tasks that require different forms of engagement and different methods of recording children's learning, to ensure that children do not have to provide written answers for all their learning tasks in their book. The different ways for children to engage with learning tasks include; joining in with a physical PE session, clapping and singing along whilst watching a video for music, creating pictures or art work, listening to stories read by staff, completing a quiz about their topic or watching videos posted by their teacher.

2. What is the first thing my child should do?

Each morning, the work for the day will be uploaded to the Google Classroom page. We would really like it if all children can do their 'check in' first and let us know how they are feeling. The teachers get to see their responses so if they are not feeling great, we will try and reach out to them and see if there is anything we can do to help.

3. Which learning tasks should my child start with?

See question 1. We advise that children start with the maths, reading or writing session, as these are the 'core' subjects in school and provide teaching in those key skills. In school, children usually start their day with a maths lesson. If you are able to follow this organisation of your child's day this might help them to maintain their 'normal' school routine.

In addition, children should be encouraged to begin with tasks or subjects they enjoy and feel confident with.

4. Does my child need to upload a photo or evidence of their learning?

Each learning task that your child completes needs to be 'Handed in' in their classroom. This shows their teacher that your child has completed that learning task. If you are able to upload a photo or video of your child's learning then the teacher can look at what they have done and make a comment. However, these photos can be uploaded after the school day, as we understand some parents cannot do this while they are working from home or supervising other children - or both!

5. Should I copy out questions into my child's book for them to answer?

No. Children can just use the books they have for any working out and then input answers into the documents sent by teachers.

6. How can my child complete their learning without an adult sitting with them?

Teachers have planned the learning tasks carefully, so that children should be able to complete the majority without adult support. Some children are allocated different tasks to others which take into account the differing needs of the children in each class. Whilst some adult support may be needed, it is not expected that children will need an adult sitting with them throughout every task.

Our advice is to encourage your child to try their learning independently, as they do when they are in school. Teachers provide support materials and resources in each assignment which children should use to help them (these may include short videos, word mats / glossaries, and times tables fact sheets etc). We also encourage children to send a private message to their teacher if they are stuck so they can help.

7. What support is available for my child to access Google Classroom?

Please contact school using the year group email addresses if your child is having difficulties accessing any aspect of their home learning through Google Classroom. We are here to support our children and families in any way we can. This might be offering telephone support to help navigate around the classroom, video calls to help set things up, the loan of a device for your child to use at home or access to wifi vouchers or 3G data. The year group email addresses follow the same format for each year group - e.g. year3@armleypark.owlcotesmat.org etc. We also encourage children to send a private message to their teacher if they are stuck so they can help.

8. What should I do if my child finds their learning task difficult?

Encourage your child to use the support materials that their teacher has provided. Children should watch and re-watch any videos that have been posted, as these are designed to provide the teaching element of any learning. Children can also write a comment to their teacher if they have a specific question or misunderstanding. These can then be viewed by the teacher and responded to. The teacher may be working with other children in school at the same time though so please be patient if the question isn't answered straight away.

9. What should I do if my child is refusing to complete their learning tasks?

Staff in school understand that children learning at home may not have the same motivation as they display in school. Parents can ask children to look at the different tasks for their day and choose a given number, or ask children to choose which learning task they would like to start with. Offering children a choice often encourages them to feel they have made their own decision.

Please get in touch with school if your child does not complete any learning tasks for a number of consecutive days. Staff in school monitor children's engagement and we will make phone calls, or video calls, home when necessary. There is the opportunity for teachers to speak directly to the children in their class if this might help with their motivation.

10. Is it ok to miss some tasks out?

See Question 1. Yes, teachers are very aware that some children may not be able to complete all the tasks set - and others may ask for more! We are trying to manage this fine balance by providing learning tasks which cover different aspects of the curriculum as well as the key skills of maths and literacy. Teachers want to provide learning tasks for children who enjoy and thrive when learning in science, geography, art, music and PE etc. as well as provide learning to develop and maintain the key maths and literacy skills.

11. How do I manage to help all my children with their learning at the same time?

Our home learning has been designed so that tasks can be completed at any time in the day and we are very lenient with the times work needs to be submitted by. It is better late than never! Please use your own judgement when managing the home learning of children in different year groups. Try to encourage those children who have activity based tasks to complete these while others are using a device, if possible. Please contact school if you are experiencing difficulties with access to devices or wifi etc. Also, some older siblings may be able to support and help the younger siblings when needed.

12. How do I comment or reply to comments made by the teacher on my child's learning?

Comments on children's work can only be viewed by the child and their teachers. Therefore, parents are able to make a comment on their child's assignment in the classroom, however this function is primarily for teachers to provide feedback to the

child. Any other questions or concerns from parents should be emailed to the year group email address.